



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*Éléments de médecine suggestive.* Dr. J. FONTAN et Dr. CH. LÉGARD.  
Paris, 1887, 304 pp.

These two professors in the Medical College of Toulon agree substantially with the school of Bernheim—whose great work (above) they call a veritable catechism of suggestive medicine—in assuming that the hypnotic state creates no new functions, but only exaggerates the normal waking function of suggestibility, and hence we hear little of the action of magnets or of neuric forces, or of drugs at a distance. Hypnotism, however, differs, they believe, from normal sleep in that it fatigues, while the latter rests, and in certain ocular phenomena, especially palpebral and sometimes orbital spasms. Charcot's three stages are purely hysterical, but pure hypnotism is better differentiated by three degrees of intensity, with intermediate degrees which are described. Whether hypnotism is functional extinction of the ego, or essentially inhibitory, or a tonic cramp of the attention, loss of will, or hyper-excitation of cerebral cells by reflex changes of cortical circulation, or absence of associative functions, are questions as yet insoluble. It is said that a generation that has a passion for developing suggestibility is declining, but medical science would rob men only of the liberty to suffer. Hypnotization is no more dangerous than the ordinary methods of therapeutics. If hens have been killed by hypnotism, as appears, drugs would have been no less effective. With one apathetic patient with mild delusions, it was enough to suggest, "you will see no more apparitions and talk no more with the wall, will have no more thoughts of suicide, will practice your piano, learn your lessons, and you will will." Suggestion seems to act on every function under the influence of the brain. Painful sensations do not hurt if the idea of pain is not aroused. Suggestibility is reversion to a state which is infantile in being mainly automatic, plus such results of mature experience as have become mostly automatic, but always with irresistible impulsion, whether faintly conscious or not. Even moral orthopedics, at least so far as the correction of unhygienic habits are concerned, is practicable in some cases. It is far easier to inhibit and repress functions than to develop them. Part second of this volume teaches physicians how to apply these methods, and part third states results, followed by 89 cases of cure or great amelioration due to hypnotism, these cases constituting nearly two thirds of the entire volume, and may be thus tabulated:

A. Diseases of the nervous system. 1. Organic affections of the nervous system, apoplexy and consecutive hemiplegia, myelitis, meningitis—6 obs.; 2. Grave neuroses, hysteria, abortive or complete epilepsy—7 obs.; 3. Insanity, alcoholism, hysterical insanity, delirium, imbecility—5 obs.; 4. Palpitations, insomnia, lassitude or neuropathic troubles—8 obs.; 5. Neuralgias, sciatic pains, migraines, and other nervous pains—14 obs.

B. Other diseases. 1. Nervous, muscular, secretory and other troubles due to internal affections, whether hepatic, pelvic, rheumatic or gastro-intestinal—21 obs.; 2. Diseases due to external troubles, such as contusions, urethric inflammation, affections of joints or skin—21 obs.; 3. Fevers, paludism and pyrexias—4 obs.; 4. Chlorosis and menstruation troubles—3 obs.; 5. Surgical anaesthesia—4 obs.

Reflex and painful troubles seem chiefly amenable to this treatment in these cases, all from the practice of the authors in the maritime hospitals at Toulon. There are a few failures, but the ratio is not far from that of Liebeault in the hypnotic treatment of incon-

tinence of urine, viz., in 77 cases eight failures. It is always the suggestion and not the hypnotism that cures in this cerebral orthopedics. Voisin reports a case of mania and another of lypemania favorably modified by hypnotic suggestion, and later three cases of hysterical insanity. This method must henceforth take an honorable rank in therapeutics. Psychologists and alienists will be especially interested in cases VIII—XVI, both inclusive. The work as a whole is serious and purely practical, but we are less convinced of the efficacy of hypnotic suggestion in the class A 1 and in B throughout (above) than of A 2—5, where its efficacy seems well established.

*L'hypnotisme et les états analogues au point de vue médico-légal.* GILLES DE LA TOURETTE. 1887, 534 pp.

The author of this valuable work was lately an interne in the Salpêtrière, and is now lecturer on legal medicine, and is full of acknowledgments to Charcot and Brouardel. Liebeault reported in 1880 that out of 1014 persons tried, all but 27 were hypnotized. Many signs, such as ready perspiration, habits of unquiet sleep and of dreaming, anaemia, neurotic diathesis, especially hysteria, have been said to indicate those adapted to hypnosis. Of all the hypnotic states, lethargy is the state most favorable to rape, as shown by many criminal cases. Hypnotic education may be in the line of suggested movements, hallucinations, or of acts. Suggestion, which is best in the somnambulant state, becomes more and more irresistible, and the most outrageous crimes can be done by as well as upon the subject. Not only does resistance gradually grow impossible, but even memory of crimes both done or suffered is often irrecoverably lost on waking sometimes, especially if the suggestion that they be so forgotten is made. All this is the more alarming if acts can be suggested mentally without word or sign, as is so often claimed, but which the author deems not proven. Suggested amnesia may be partial and one may recall and perhaps confess a suggested crime and forget the suggestor. Retroactive suggestion may be made in such a way that the subject believes himself to remember acts or crimes committed, or robberies or outrages suffered, which have not occurred. A crime may be suggested to a hypnotized subject to be done hours, days, or even weeks in the future, and the subject then awakened. But at the appointed time the act is spontaneously done, and in some cases entirely forgotten. The problems what is the state of the subject in the interim between the suggestion and the act, and what at the time of the act, are as important for determining the question of responsibility as they are difficult to solve. Natural somnambulism is often one of the first symptoms of hysteria, and somnambulists make excellent hypnotic subjects. If, in the dissociation of senses thus caused, a somnambulist or hypnotic subject falls from a height and is killed, life insurance companies should not interpret it as suicide (which vitiates policies), for it was not intentional. Hypnotism is as valid an exculpation from criminal intent as insanity, although the former on account of its brief duration is more easily simulated. Yet if the subject knows his malady he may be culpable if he takes no precautions and crime is done. Somnambulism is a dream in action, as *e. g.*, in the case of a nun who dreamed the friar of the convent had slain her mother, rose in her sleep, found and stabbed him. These states are nearly always partial sleep, or sleep of the unused senses. Although the degrees of resistance to suggested acts vary greatly with